

11.  
HIS MAJESTIES  
MOST GRACIOUS  
S P E E C H

To both Houses of  
PARLIAMENT,

On Monday the one and twentieth  
of *March*, 166 $\frac{3}{4}$



EDINBURGH,  
Re-printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the King's most Excellent  
MAJESTY, 1664.

CUM PRIVILEGIO.









*HIS MAJESTIES*

Most Gracious

S P E E C H

To both HOUSES of

PARLIAMENT,

On Monday the 21. of *March*, 1664.

*My Lords and Gentlemen,*



You see, God be thanked, you  
 have met together again at  
 the time appointed; and I  
 do assure you I have been  
 so far from ever intending  
 it should be otherwise,  
 that I do not know one per-  
 son who ever wished it should be otherwise.  
 Think therefore, I pray, what good mean-  
 ing those men could have, who from the time  
 of the prorogation to the day of your meeting,  
 have continually whispered, and industri-  
 ously infused into the minds of the people, that  
 the Parliament should meet no more; that it  
 should either be presently dissolved, or so  
 continued by prorogation, that they should  
 be kept without a Parliament. I pray watch  
 these whisperers all you can, as men who use  
 their utmost endeavours to sow jealousies be-  
 tween you and Me: and I do promise you  
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they shall not prevail with Me; and I do promise My Self they shall not prevail with you; and the truth is, VVe are both concerned they should not; and VVe shall then, with Gods blessing, prevent all the mischief they intend.

You may judge by the late Treason in the North, for which so many men have been executed, how active the spirits of many of Our old enemies still are, notwithstanding all Our mercy. I do assure you, VVe are not yet at the bottom of that businesse: This much appears manifestly, that this conspiracy was but a branch of that which I discovered as well as I could to you about two years since, and had been then executed nearer hand, if I had not, by Gods goodnesse, come to the knowledge of some of the principal contrivers, and so secured them from doing the mischief they intended. And if I had not by the like Providence, had timely notice of the very hour, and several places of their Rendezvouz in the North, and provided for them accordingly, by sending some of My own Troups, as well as by drawing the Trayned Bands together, their conjunction would have been in greater numbers then had been convenient.

You will wonder (but I tell true) they are now even in those parts, and at this time, when they see their friends under tryal and execution, still pursuing the same consultations: and it is evident, they have correspondence with desperat persons in most Counties, and a  
standing



standing Council in this Town ; from which they received their directions , and by whom they were advised to defer their last-intended Infurrection ; but those orders served only to distract them , and came too late to prevent their destruction. I know more of their intrigues , then they think *I* do, and hope *I* shall shortly discover the bottom ; in the mean time , *I* pray let Us all be as watchfull to prevent , as they are to contrive , their mischief.

I cannot omit upon this occasion to tell you, that these desperat men in their councils (as appears by several examinations) have not been all of one mind in the wayes of carrying on their wicked resolutions: Some would still insist upon the authority of the Long-parliament, of which they say they have members enough willing to meet ; others have fancied to themselves, by some computation of their own, upon some Clause in the Triennial Bill, that this present Parliament was at an end some moneths since, and that for want of new VVrits, they may assemble themselves, and chuse Members for Parliament ; and that this is the best expedient to bring themselves together for their other purposes. For the Long-parliament, you and I can do no more then VVe have done, to inform and compose the minds of all men ; let them proceed upon their peril. But Methinks, there is nothing done to disabuse them in respect of the Triennial Bill. *I* confesse to

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you,



you, *My Lords and Gentlemen*, I have often My Self read over that Bill, and though there is no colour for the fancy of the determination of this Parliament, yet I will not deny to you, that I have alwayes expected that you would, and even wondered that you have not considered the wonderfull Clauses in that Bill, which passed in a time very uncarefull for the dignity of the Crown, or the security of the People. I pray, Mr. *Speaker*, and you *Gentlemen of the House of Commons*, give that Triennial Bill once a reading in your House, and then in Gods name, do what you think fit for Me, and your selves, and the whole Kingdom. I need not tell you how much I love Parliaments; never King was so much beholding to Parliaments as I have been, nor do I think the Crown can ever be happy without frequent Parliaments. But assure your selves, if I should think otherwise, I would never suffer a Parliament to come together by the means prescribed by that Bill.

*My Lords and Gentlemen*, I must renew My thanks to you for the free supply you gave Me this last Session, of four Subsidies; yet I cannot but tell you, That that supply is fallen much short of what I expected, or you intended: It will hardly be believed, yet you know it to be true, that very many persons who have Estates of three and four thousand pounds a year, do not pay for these four Subsidies



Subsidies sixteen pounds; so that whereas you intended and declared, that they should be collected according to former precedents, they do not now arise to half the proportion they did in the time of Queen *Elizabeth*; and yet sure the Crown wants more now, then it did then, and the Subject is at least as well able to give.

The truth is, by the Licence of the late ill times, and ill humor of this, too many of the people, and even of those who make fair professions, believe it to be no sin to defraud the Crown of any thing that is due to it. You no sooner give me Tunnage and Poundage, then men are devising all the wayes they can to steal Custom; nor can the Farmers be so vigilant for the Collection, as others are to steal the Duties. You give Me the Excise, which all people abroad believe to be the most insensible imposition, that can be laid upon a people: what conspiracies and combinations are entered into against it by the Brewers, who I am sure bear not that burthen themselves, even to bring that Revenue to nothing, you will hear in *Westminster-hall*. You have given Me the Chimney-money, which you have reason to believe is a growing Revenue, for men build at least fast enough, and you will therefore wonder that it is already declined, and that this half year brings in less then the former did; I pray therefore review that Bill, and since I am sure you would have Me receive whatso-



ever you give, let *Me* have the collecting and husbanding of it by *My* own Officers, and then *I* doubt not but to improve that Receipt, and will be cozoned of as little as *I* can.

*I* will conclude with desiring and conjuring you, *My Lords and Gentlemen*, to keep a very good correspondence together, that it may not be in the power of any seditious or factious spirits to make you jealous of each other, or either of you jealous of *Me*, till you see *Me* pretend one thing and do another, which *I* am sure you have never yet done; trust *Me*, it shall be in no bodies power to make *Me* jealous of you. *I* pray contrive any good short Bills which may improve the industry of the Nation; and since the season of the year will invite *Us* all shortly to take the Country air, *I* desire you would be ready for a Session within two moneths or thereabouts, and *VVe* will meet next earlier in the year. And so God bless your Councils.

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